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## Parsons selected new Shuttle Program manager; Rudolphi to become interim director

NASA announced May 9 the selection of William W. “Bill” Parsons as the new manager for the Space Shuttle Program effective June 1. Parsons is currently director of the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) in South Mississippi.

“This is a critical position for the agency as we begin to focus our return-to-flight efforts in the wake of the Columbia tragedy,” said NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe. “The Space Shuttle Program, the entire space flight community and the nation will be served by Bill’s great leadership. He will be missed by our colleagues at Stennis, but the benefits to all the NASA family will be tremendous.”

Stennis Deputy Center Director Michael Rudolphi will serve as interim director until a permanent successor is named.

Parsons will succeed Ronald D. Dittmore, who announced his res-



**Parsons looks forward to ‘getting the Space Shuttle safely flying again.’**

ignation from the position of Space Shuttle Program manager April 23.

Parsons has served as center director since August 2002. Prior to that, he was deputy director of Johnson Space Center in Houston. Parsons was first assigned to SSC in 1997 as chief of operations for

Propulsion Testing and returned to SSC in 2001 when he served as director of the Center Operations and Support Directorate.

“From the first time I saw a Space Shuttle launch, I knew I wanted to be a part of NASA and America’s space exploration efforts,” said Parsons. “This is a challenging time for the program, but the people of NASA have a long, successful history of overcoming adversity. I’m proud to be a part of the return-to-flight effort and look forward to getting the Space Shuttle safely flying again.”

A native of Illinois, Rudolphi has served as deputy center director since November 2002.

“The fundamental course remains unchanged and the future looks bright for Stennis,” Rudolphi said. “Keep it going!”

He joined NASA in 1988 as a facility manager for the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor Project in Iuka, Miss. After special assignment to

the Solid Rocket Booster Project at Kennedy Space Center, he was selected as project manager for the Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Project.

Rudolphi recently served as NASA senior representative in Lufkin, Texas, in the debris recovery efforts of the Space Shuttle Columbia.



**Deputy Center Director Michael Rudolphi will become interim SSC director.**

## Wing parts critical to Columbia test

From left, Machinist Jacob McKinley, Center Operations’ Chief of Operations and Maintenance Division Bob Heitzmann, Machine Shop Supervisor Don Smith, and Center Operations Director Miguel Rodriguez examine aluminum models of flight hardware fabricated by Stennis Space Center’s machine shop May 1. Fabrication of the hardware, a pair of lower spanner beams for a test article of Space Shuttle Columbia’s left wing, was requested by Johnson Space Center to test a theory about the loss of Columbia. If they aren’t used for the test, the spanner beams will go straight into flight inventory for the Space Shuttle Program. (See story, Page 3.)



## Sverdrup awarded contract

Stennis Space Center (SSC) has awarded a six-year, cost-plus-award-fee contract to Sverdrup Technology Inc. of Tullahoma, Tenn. The contract is to support propulsion test operations at SSC and Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), Huntsville, Ala.

With a total estimated value of \$126 million, the contract includes \$41 million for a two-year base period and \$85 million for two, two-year priced option periods.

Sverdrup will provide technical and management services to support propulsion test operations at SSC and MSFC, including the Space Shuttle Main Engine program. Major elements of the contract include administering an integrated contract team for safe, environmentally compliant test activities; test and engineering core capabilities; and test project implementation.

Other members of the Sverdrup Technology team include ERC Inc. of Huntsville, Ala., and Smith Research Corp. of Baton Rouge, La.

*From the desk of  
Bill Parsons  
Stennis Space Center Director*



This will be my last chance to use the SSC center director’s column in Lagniappe to address some of the finest people on Earth – the people of Stennis Space Center. Now that I have been asked to take over as Space Shuttle Program Manager, I’ve been asked to “walk the walk.” When I came to work for NASA in 1990, I never dreamed that one day I would be heading the Shuttle Program.

*With Mike Rudolphi as interim center director, I’m confident that you’re in good hands. He will keep the center on the right track, doing the remarkable things I know you’re all capable of achieving.*

The past 10 months since I’ve been center director have seen a lot of changes both here at Stennis and throughout NASA. When NASA leadership asked me to take this position, I was very surprised because I had planned to be at SSC for many more years. But I stand ready to support what I think is one of NASA’s most important missions – putting humans in space.

There are tough challenges ahead, but one of my first priorities is to make sure we fly the shuttle safely again, and I’m confident we will do just that.

I’ve worked at several centers during my career, but being the center director at Stennis has been an absolutely wonderful experience. I leave Stennis with some regrets, but the center is headed in the right direction. With Mike Rudolphi as interim center director, I’m confident that you’re in good hands. He will keep the center on the right track, doing the remarkable things I know you’re all capable of achieving.

Rudi has worked hand-in-hand with me during the organizational changes, which have been very positive. So, I urge you to continue coming up with new and innovative ideas that will keep the center pointed in the right direction for the future.

You, the people of Stennis, are what make this such an extraordinary center. I sincerely hope you invite me back regularly – especially for the crawfish boils.

Godspeed as both you and I look forward to the challenges ahead.



**Core Financial module nearing rollout**

The Core Financial module of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) will roll out on time and under budget according to Terry Jackson, program manager. “We are in the final stretch now and everything looks good,” said Jackson.

SSC employees have been great at responding to the training requirements, and it appears the systems are ready for June 23 when we will flip the switch.

But now is not the time to let up. Right behind the Core Financial module is the integrated Budget Formulation software. This IFMP program will allow center managers to lay out their budgets for next year’s Program Operating Plan (POP) process in a way that will automatically integrate the financial operating plan with IFMP. This will enable planned and actual expenditures to be tracked in near-real time.

Stennis program managers should see a tremendous advantage through the program.

Following closely behind Budget Formulation is another module allowing the center to better manage its physical assets. This system will be totally integrated and, for example, will provide the ability for pieces of equipment to be tracked from the initial purchase to its delivery, location, condition, and final disposal, even if it’s years later – an integrated cradle-to-grave asset management system.

Other modules include an integrated procurement module, a new Human Resources module and perhaps a module for better project management.

All this means more productivity. And for a center like Stennis that has made a living doing more with less, more productivity is very important.

**NEWSCLIPS**

**NASA spins up new vehicle rollover test.** NASA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) joined forces to take vehicles out for a spin. The NHTSA wanted to research new methods for testing vehicle rollover resistance, and NASA’s High Capacity Centrifuge (HCC) was exactly what was needed.

Vehicles were spun, using the HCC at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., on a test platform, until inertia and centrifugal force caused them to tip.

NASA uses the HCC to test spacecraft before they’re sent into space. Engineers use the HCC to approximate the effects encountered during the rigors of a rocket launch.

**New NASA data helps take ‘whether’ out of weather prediction.** Your weather-person’s job just got a little easier, thanks to new data available from advanced weather instruments aboard NASA’s Aqua satellite.

The information comes from two microwave sounding instruments that are part of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) experiment: the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder and the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit.

With its visible, infrared and microwave detectors, the AIRS experiment provides a three-dimensional look at Earth’s weather. Working in tandem, its instruments can make simultaneous observations from space all the way to Earth’s surface, even in the presence of heavy clouds.

**NASA improves computers with tiny carbon tubes on silicon chips.** A new manufacturing process developed by NASA scientists may make the life of the silicon chip industry last 10 or more years longer.

The novel method, announced in the April 14 issue of the journal, Applied Physics Letters, includes use of extremely tiny carbon “nanotubes” instead of copper conductors to interconnect parts within integrated circuits (ICs).

Carbon nanotubes are measured in nanometers, much smaller than today’s components.

A nanometer is roughly 10,000 times smaller than the width of an average human hair. ICs are very small groups of electronic components made on silicon wafers.



## Space Flight Awareness



*We Have Friends In High Places*

### International Space Station Status Report

Four weeks into their mission, the two-man crew of the International Space Station has moved beyond an orientation and familiarization schedule and into an agenda of operations that reflects the range of activities they'll pursue on orbit during the remaining five months of their flight.

Each day last week Expedition 7 Commander Yuri Malenchenko and NASA ISS Science Officer Ed Lu completed a variety of maintenance tasks to keep their home on orbit in good shape, from monitoring the operation of life support systems to testing the quality of air and water.

This week mission managers plan to have the crewmembers replace a storage battery in the Zvezda Service Module. As training for a contingency spacewalk, they also will have Malenchenko and Lu get into, and then out of, the American space-suits. In their pre-flight training Malenchenko and Lu always had help donning and doffing the Extravehicular Mobility Unit. No spacewalks are planned for this increment.

The science mission of Expedition 7 picked up last week. Malenchenko took part in Russian biomedical experiments gauging the impact of the microgravity environment on blood cell count and body mass, while Lu began a new series of experiment runs with the InSPACE experiment in the Microgravity Sciences Glovebox (MSG).

The MSG is a sealed container in the Destiny laboratory housing experiments involving materials that need to be isolated from the station environment. InSPACE, or Investigating the Structure of Paramagnetic Aggregates from Colloidal Emulsions, which was started during Expedition 6, studies how particles that are capable of being magnetized respond when a magnetic field is pulsed on and off.

Scientists hope to develop better fluids for systems that are routinely exposed to magnetic fields, such as automobile brake fluids and vibration damping systems.

## Shuttle's return to flight relies on team effort

**T**est hardware machined at NASA's Stennis Space Center (SSC) could play a significant role in the Space Shuttle Program's return to flight.

SSC machined two components for a test article of the leading edge of Space Shuttle Columbia's left wing. Engineers from NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston will use the test article in an attempt to re-create conditions on Columbia before her Feb. 1 accident.

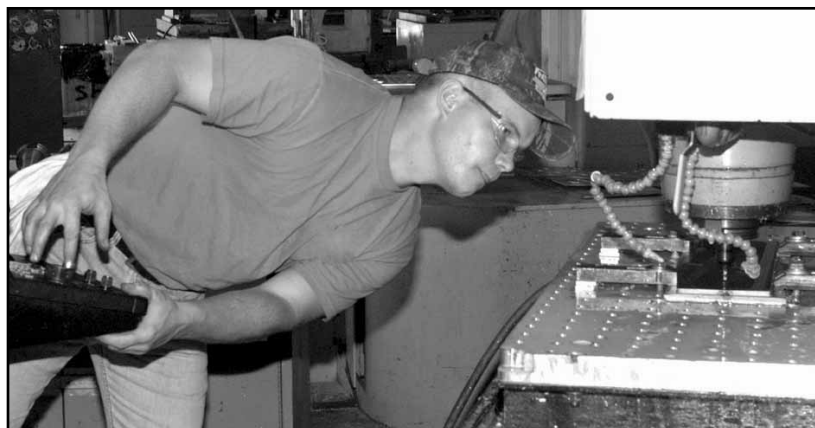
Engineers believe foam insulation that impacted Columbia's wing during ascent may have breached the reinforced carbon-carbon (RCC) panels, leading to the loss of Columbia and her crew during re-entry.

"The test article will simulate a portion of Columbia's left wing RCC panels No. 5 through No. 10," said JSC Manufacturing Engineer Dan Petersen.

"Blocks of external tank insulation will be



**Abacus Technologies employee and Shipping Specialist Robin Martin prepares packaging for a pair of Inconel lower spanner beams for shipment to Johnson Space Center in Houston on May 7.**



**MSS Machinist Jacob McKinley, left, checks his calculations while fabricating a pair of spanner beams, pieces of a test article of Space Shuttle Columbia's left wing.**

fired at the test article from a large air cannon," said JSC Project Manager Wayne Jermstad. The object of the test is to understand what effect the foam will have on the RCC panels.

Last month, SSC received plates of Inconel, a strong, heat-resistant alloy, and in a quick turnaround of only one week, machined them into two spanner beams, structural parts that reinforce the RCC panels.

"Inconel is actually very hard, and very hard to machine," said NASA's Dale McCarty, SSC machine shop technical manager. "You have to go slow."

It took MSS Machinist Jacob McKinley two days to program the computer-controlled machine and about two and a half days to fabricate each piece. The finished products resembled two flat ribs, each roughly 18 inches long and 5 inches wide.

His supervisor, MSS Machine Shop Foreman Don Smith, said, "It may not mean much to us today, but when that shuttle flies again, I might be able to say, 'Man! I had a part in that!'"

"If they don't use the spanner beams in the test ..., they'll go straight into flight inventory (for the Space Shuttle Program)," McCarty said.

"Either way, it's a big deal," Jermstad said.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to return the shuttles to space flight real soon as a result of the tests."

More than 500 parts will be manufactured and over 1,500 fasteners used to assemble the test article in just five weeks. SSC was the first center to respond to JSC's requests to produce eight hardware packages.

"This really represents the One NASA approach because we're involving several centers," Jermstad said. "This is a great demonstration of what we can do when we collaborate."

"It was a rush job. JSC put the call out for help," McCarty said. "This is all part of the new fabrication alliance where we can use all of NASA's capabilities across the country."

Miguel Rodriguez, director of NASA's Center Operations Directorate at SSC, said, "There is a lot of power behind the belief that we can get things done through the fabrication alliance."

Assembly of the test article began May 1 with both JSC and Kennedy Space Center (KSC) personnel. The joint JSC-KSC team will test the panels this month at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

"It's all in memory of Columbia's crew," Petersen said. "We want to find out the truth."

## New fund helps support families of STS-107

NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe has announced the formation of the NASA Family Assistance Fund.

The fund was created in response to numerous requests of agency employees to support the families of STS-107 and other NASA families in times of need.

Formed in cooperation with the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA), the NASA Family Assistance Fund will provide need-based financial assistance and educational assistance to the families of the seven Columbia astronauts, as well as to other families of NASA personnel who die as the result of personal injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

The money collected will be used to pay families’ expenses, with the primary goal of guaranteeing the education needs of the Columbia crew’s 12 children as well as the children of other NASA personnel.

NASA employees may designate their contribution to all the Columbia families, to a particular Columbia family or family member, or to another NASA family or family member.

Employees interested in contributing to the NASA Family Assistance Fund may do so in several ways: Contribute online by visiting [www.nasa.gov/about/overview/AN\\_FAF.html](http://www.nasa.gov/about/overview/AN_FAF.html); write a check to FEEA NASA FUND, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501; or make a donation by calling the FEEA at (303) 933-7580 or 1-800-338-0755.

## Asian, Pacific Islander heritage celebrated in May

### SSC spotlights NASA employees

NASA and Stennis Space Center (SSC) join organizations across the country in observing May as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. As Part of the celebration, SSC spotlights two NASA employees of Asian/Pacific ancestry, Vince Andres and Dr. Shamim Rahman.

#### Dr. Shamim Rahman

NASA has touched Dr. Shamim Rahman’s life for about as long as he can remember – or at least as far back as 1969, when he was glued to the television watching Neil Armstrong step onto the lunar surface. “That’s when I decided to join whoever went to the Moon,” he said. “At the time I could barely spell NASA.”

Now he does a lot more than spell, since he’s NASA’s Chief Engineer for the Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis Space Center. He provides technical oversight for one-of-a-kind national test facilities collectively valued at over \$2 billion, for a variety of research and development test projects for next-generation rocket engines.

Born in 1963 in Jamshedpur, India, Rahman was always fascinated by flight, visiting airports just to watch takeoffs and landings. After he completed elementary school in Bahrain (a Persian Gulf island between Qatar and Saudi Arabia) and high school in India, his father sent him to the U.S., where, in 1979, he enrolled at Texas A&M University and experienced another

turning point in his life.

Pleasantly surprised that he could major in aerospace engineering, he began working with Rockwell International Corp. through a cooperative student program between NASA Johnson Space Center and A&M. In 1981, the first Space Shuttle mission, STS-1, launched. “That was the beginning of my direct involvement with the space program,” he said. “Apollo got me excited about space flight, but STS was the motivation.” STS stands for Space Transportation System, which includes all Space Shuttle components, such as the orbiter, external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters.

A year later, he met a scientist widely heralded as one of the original founding fathers of modern rocketry and astronautics, Hermann Oberth. The two met when Rahman was doing research with a professor who nominated him to attend an international astronautics conference in Budapest, Hungary, where students were presenting papers. Oberth was at the conference.

One of Rahman’s most prized possessions is a picture of him meeting Oberth at the conference. Another is a signed copy of Oberth’s book (in German), “The Rocket into Planetary Space,” published in 1923. In the 1930s, Oberth took on a young assistant in Germany named Wehrner Von Braun, who became a leading rocketry researcher for Germany, then after World War II led the U.S. drive to land on the Moon. Oberth died in 1989 at age 95, Von Braun in 1977 at age 65.

Rahman’s education and experience have led



**Andres: ‘A logistician learns how to operate totally different jobs; how to help run a little city.’**

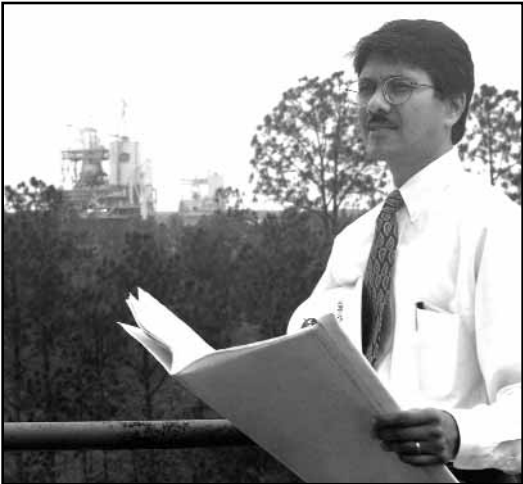
him to the Stennis test stands, where all of today’s Space Shuttle Main Engines are tested, and future developments are demonstrated. “This is where the ideas prove themselves,” he said. “At full scale and full power, the engine tests give us the confidence to turn test engines into flight engines. These facilities are unique in the world.”

With a master’s degree from California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University (PSU), where he concentrated on rocket propulsion research, Rahman cannot give enough credit to the educators in his life. “Learning continues to be a lifelong endeavor,” he said, “and I feel very much indebted to the many great teachers over the years.”

That’s particularly true about his thesis adviser at PSU, Robert Santoro. “He was the type of person who would teach you to learn on your own,” he said. “He’d give you all the resources you needed but support you when you needed help.”

He’s also indebted to all his colleagues in the E-Complex. “We continue to learn together, pushing the boundaries in our work of rocket propulsion testing,” Rahman said. “That’s what makes this time so rewarding.”

**See AAPI, Page 7**



**Rahman: ‘Apollo got me excited about space flight, but STS was the motivation.’**



# NASA and contractors are serving our country

While Stennis Space Center continues rocket propulsion testing and the center’s role in pursuing NASA’s vision and mission, world events have called some NASA and contractor employees to a higher duty, protecting freedom as they serve in the country’s armed forces.

Following is a list of Stennis employees who have been, or currently are serving overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

**NASA**

- Anthony Goretski, *Contract Specialist*
- Glen Liebig, *Safety & Occupational Health Specialist*

**Lockheed Martin Space Operations**

- Stephen Strausbaugh, *Electronic Technician*
- Gerald “Butch” Howard, *Test Complex Technician*
- David Oakes, *Software Developer Analyst*
- Gregory McVay, *Technical Field Support*

**MSS**

- Warren Fandal, *Firefighter*
- Rodney E. Sampson, *Heavy Equipment Operator, Certified*
- James C. Sampson, *Heavy Equipment Operator*
- Roger L. Walters, Jr., *Carpenter*



## Renewing old friendships

SSC retirees and current employees enjoyed the annual Old Timers Day on May 16 at the Cypress House. Catching up on old times and renewing their friendships are, from left, former Center Director Roy Estess, former Center Operations Director Arthur Rogers, and current Center Operations Deputy Director Patrick Scheuermann.



## Spring Games situp champ

Karen Kennedy counts out her situps while Sherri Adler, fitness technician, holds her feet during the 2003 SSC Spring Games PT Challenge 3. The challenge was held at the Wellness Center during May in observance of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Kennedy, a Lockheed Martin Space Operations project planner at the E-Complex, won the situp competition by completing 100 in two minutes.

## Parsons delivers keynote speech at Choctaw Technology Conference

NASA Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons recently served as a keynote speaker for the 2003 Choctaw Shift to Technology Conference in Choctaw, Miss.



Stennis Space Center Director Bill Parsons, left, was a keynote speaker for the Choctaw Shift to Technology Conference. Parsons met with Choctaw Chief Phillip Martin to discuss collaborations between NASA and the tribe.

Parsons’ speech highlighted numerous collaborations between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and NASA. Highlights included a NASA Educator Resource Center and an interactive video network classroom, and sponsoring the first and only Native American FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics team.

“It is truly NASA’s privilege to work with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on many education and economic development programs,” Parsons said. “This partnership serves as a model of the synergy that exists when the technology gained from America’s space program is applied to enrich the lives of students.”

Parsons also commended Chief Phillip Martin for his work to improve the tribal school sys-

tem, saying that his vision has created one of the most sophisticated school systems in the nation.

NASA’s newest collaboration with the Choctaw tribe was facilitating the Department of Defense STARBASE program in the tribal school system.

The program for fifth- and seventh-graders introduces students to aeronautics through classroom instruction, the use of flight simulators and field trips to the Naval Air Station in Meridian.

Parsons and other NASA officials toured the STARBASE facility while visiting Choctaw.



Cassandra Hickman and Sable Thompson, fifth-grade students from Pearl River Elementary, demonstrate their skill on a flight simulator. Both girls said the flight simulators were their favorite part of the STARBASE program and that they are now considering careers in aviation.

## One NASA responds to tragedy in East Texas

*Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories from other NASA centers on the One NASA concept. This month's story is from Johnson Space Center.*

The NASA family came together as cohesively as it ever has in East Texas this spring as workers from virtually every NASA center helped organize and conduct the search for clues to Columbia's demise.

"In all my years with NASA, I have never seen this agency's people band together as effectively as they have in responding to this tragedy," said Jerry Ross, who took turns with fellow astronaut Dom Gorie to coordinate the day-to-day search efforts. "These people worked very long days for weeks at a time away from home without fighting, complaining or

shirking their duty. They set an example that our entire country should strive to emulate."

Based in cities like Lufkin, Corsicana, Palestine, Nacogdoches and Hemphill, Texas, as well as Shreveport, La., employees from NASA and its contractors worked shoulder-to-shoulder with friends from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Texas Forest Service and others. In all, more than 90 local, state and federal organizations responded to the challenges of searching a 10-mile-wide, 240-mile-long corridor in East Texas and West Louisiana by land, air and water.

They stretched those efforts as far west as the California coast, using ingenious methods to predict where shuttle material might have landed as Columbia broke up during re-entry on Feb. 1. And then they shipped the pieces back to Kennedy Space

*Many of the NASA workers were friends of the seven astronauts lost after their ambitious 16-day science mission. All of those involved ... dedicated themselves to the cause of 'bringing Columbia home.'*



**Mission Control at Johnson Space Center**

Center, where their colleagues began reassembling them and working with the Columbia Accident Investigation Board to determine the cause of the accident.

Many of the NASA workers were friends of the seven astronauts lost after their ambitious 16-day science mission. All of those involved, whether they were in Mission Control on that fateful day or had no previous connection to America's space program, dedicated themselves to the cause of "bringing Columbia home."

"While we are saddened by the events that have led to this activity, we are all pleased with

**See ONE NASA, next page**

## Star Scene at



### Reliving history

Stanley Parish of Perkinston views the Apollo 4 command module on display at StenniSphere. Parish was among the crew aboard the U.S.S. Okinawa in the Pacific Ocean on Nov. 6, 1967, when the module landed. Eighteen years old at the time, Parish and his fellow sailors had been called from duty in Vietnam to help retrieve the module. "I remember hearing five distinct sonic booms," said Parish. "We could see it just above the clouds as it was landing. It made a giant splash and landed in almost the exact spot it was supposed to land. Being a part of that experience made an indelible mark in my mind." Parish said he has visited several other NASA centers and has always had an eye out for the module. Discovering the module at StenniSphere, near his home in Stone County, he said, "makes me get goose bumps."



### Aircraft club visits SSC

Peter Cassidy, left, of Brentwood, Tenn., and Robert Peters of Lewisburg, Tenn., take a close look at a Space Shuttle Main Engine on display at StenniSphere. The men are members of the American Bonanza Society, an organization of people who have an interest in Beech-produced aircraft. Members of the society visited Stennis late last month while in the area for the organization's bimonthly meeting.

### Honoring Columbia crew

Student Michael Young, assisted by parent volunteer Bart Clover, prepare to launch a rocket Young made in Discovery, the gifted class at Reeves Elementary School in Long Beach. The students visited StenniSphere May 14 and dedicated their rocket launches to the astronauts who lost their lives aboard Apollo 1, and Shuttles Challenger and Columbia.





**AAPI . . .**

(Continued from Page 4)

Rahman lives in Mandeville, La., with his wife, Shaheen, and two daughters, Amnah and Zara. Shaheen teaches biology at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La., and both daughters attend school in the St. Tammany Parish school district.

**Vince Andres**

Long Beach resident Vince Andres works in SSC's Institutional Branch, Operations and Support Directorate. There he serves as export administrator, scientific and technology information manager, installation printing management officer and industrial property officer. He is also the technical monitor for the base contractor's medical clinic, library services, mail services and multimedia/print shop operations.

"Logistician – that's what my field is," Andres said. He holds a master of science in procurement and contract management. "A logis-

tician learns how to operate totally different jobs; how to help run a little city."

Asked how he arrived at his current responsibilities, Andres said, "Through mentors. They help guide us through life when we are not clear as to what we want to do as a career."

Andres was born in San Francisco. His father was Filipino-American; his mother, of Irish-German ancestry.

"I've always chosen the 'other' block when filling out a form that asks for my ethnic profile," he said. "Culturally, I didn't pick up any specific traits from either side. My philosophy is that if you are anything other than a Native American, you are pretty much a mixed-bag American."

Andres earned his bachelor's degree in business, then his master of science degree in procurement and contract management from Saint Mary's College of California in 1984.

He came to Stennis Space Center in 1990 as a program analyst.



**Display focuses on NASA employees of Asian American, Pacific Islander heritage**

Visitors Tom and Leisa Blackwell of Charlotte, N.C., stop in the lobby of the Launch Pad to look at an exhibit set up for Asian American Pacific Islander Month, observed in May by NASA's Stennis Space Center. The exhibit features photos and information about NASA employees who are of Asian American or Pacific Islander heritage.

"A lot of the things I learned in college helped me be flexible," he said. He maintains that flexibility by traveling annually with his family to Hawaii and around the world. "You have to go before it's all modernized and everything looks the

same," he said.

Andres' wife, Vivian, is a school counselor in Gulfport. She is Hawaiian-born of Japanese ancestry. Their daughter, Christine, was a NASA scholar and graduated from Brown University in 2001.

**ONE NASA . . .**

(Continued from previous page)

the cooperation, coordination, dedication and hard work that are being exhibited," said Johnson Space Center's Allen Flynt, one of three NASA oversight managers directing efforts from the Lufkin Command Center.

Flynt took turns overseeing the

effort with Dave King of Marshall Space Flight Center and Mike Rudolphi of Stennis Space Center.

"We're also thankful for the new friendships we've forged as our various centers, agencies, organizations and personnel have come together to perform this difficult task," Flynt said.

As of the start of April, about 30 percent of Columbia, by weight,

had been recovered, and King predicted that some 43 percent of the shuttle would be recovered by the time the search concludes.

Citizens and local officials will be reporting discoveries for months, possibly years to come, and NASA will respond as one to bring them home.

"We owe this to our seven brave colleagues who died on their

way home," said JSC's Dave Whittle, who led the initial Mishap Response Team mobilized just minutes after Mission Control declared a contingency and spent time at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Texas command centers.

"We owe this to the children of this world who will pick up the torch and carry it into the future," Whittle said.



**Cook-off raises money for cancer fight**

SSC employees took part in the 14th Annual Red Beans and Rice Cook-Off, sponsored by the American Cancer Society to raise money for the fight against cancer. From left are Matt Willis, Bo Clarke, Jim Bobinger and Jeanie Maxwell, NASA; and Jay Hill, MSS. The event was held April 29 at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis.



**Stennis Krewe accepting new members**

Stennis employees and their spouses are eligible for membership with the SSC Mardi Gras Krewe, who won a third-place award in the Nereids Mardi Gras Parade in Bay St. Louis this year. Members designed their float and costumes according to the theme, 'Cleopatra and Julius Caesar.' For information on joining the krewe, call 8-1218.

SAFETY  
CORNER

### Workplace holds potential for injuries

Every workplace has a treacherous enemy: the workplace hazard. An unnoticed hazard can take a person’s life in an instant, cause a lifetime of suffering or cause injuries.

It makes sense to gather information about workplace hazards. Sharing information helps keep everyone safe.

Safety information may be shared in a number of ways. Individual or group training sessions are helpful. Training workbooks, videos and live demonstrations make the information easier to remember. Trainees are introduced to procedures and learn to use safety equipment under the supervision of an experienced person.

Safety communication continues daily. Signs and posters are commonly used to pass along safety information. They point out hazards such as the possibility of objects falling from overhead or the presence of flammable liquid vapors. They also explain what to do to avoid injury.

Labels are another common source of safety information. On a container of chemicals, the label will list the contents, hazards and what to do in case of a spill or exposure.

The Material Safety Data Sheet is another method of communicating safety information about chemicals. It contains the same type of information as the label, but in greater detail.

SSC’s Close Call reporting system of reporting near misses and other potential accidents is another important link in safety communication. This gives co-workers valuable information about the kinds of hazards lurking in the work area and allows a dangerous situation to be rectified.

If you know of or suspect a workplace hazard, report it. If you have safety information, share it.

QUICKLOOK

**Professional development training available this summer.** The summer course schedule at Stennis offered by the University of Southern Mississippi - Gulf Coast Campus and Center for Higher Learning includes Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer; Basic Project Management; Dealing with Difficult People; Stepping up to Supervisor; and Technical Writing. To register, call (228) 867-8777 or fax to (228) 867-8775.

**Annual shrimp boil at the Cypress House.** NASA employees, retirees and their families are invited to the annual shrimp boil, which will also be SSC Director Bill Parsons’ farewell party. It will be held at the Cypress House on June 13 beginning at 4 p.m. Organizer Bo Clarke, of Center Operations Project Management Office, said he expects to cook 900 pounds of shrimp for the event. There will be refreshments for adults and entertainment for children. Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$4 the day of the event. Kids eat free. For details, call Clarke at 8-1645.

**Thrift Savings Plan Open Season closing soon.** NASA’s Office of Human Resources and Development reminds employees that Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season is coming to a close June 30. Eligible employees may enroll or change their biweekly contributions by logging onto Employee Express at [www.employeeexpress.gov/emain.htm](http://www.employeeexpress.gov/emain.htm). Current TSP interest rates, monthly returns and other information can be found at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).



*Wilbur and Orville Wright made their historic first flight Dec. 17, 1903. In support of NASA Quest’s Centennial of Flight Project, LAGNIAPPE offers trivia questions about NASA’s role in flight each issue during the yearlong celebration.*

- Q.

In 1960 NASA and the Department of Defense awarded \$1 million to the estate of which rocketry pioneer to use his patents?
- A.

Robert H. Goddard. Born in Worcester, Mass., in 1882, he became curious about spaceflight by reading and writing science fiction. By 1912 he developed detailed mathematical theories of rocket propulsion, and in 1914 received two patents for rockets. In 1926 Goddard launched his first rocket, which rose 184 feet in 2.5 seconds and heralded the modern age of rocketry. He didn’t live to see the space age begin, dying in 1945 – his achievements largely overlooked.

LAGNIAPPE


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Comments or suggestions  
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LAGNIAPPE Office  
Building 1200, Room 208D  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529  
or call:  
(228) 688-3585

*Deadline for content submissions  
is the 10th of the month or nearest workday.*



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